

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 08173 140914Z
ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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SECSTATE WASHDC 8980
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UNCLAS BELGRADE 8173

USIAC

USIA FOR ICS/D
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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PIANIST JAMES TOCCO

1. AMERICAN PIANIST JAMES TOCCO GAVE TWO CONCERTS IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER. FIRST TOOK PLACE IN SARAJEVO ON NOVEMBER 22ND AND WAS CO-SPONSORED BY USIC AND THE BOSNIAN CONCERT AGENCY. AUDIENCE OF APPROXIMATELY 200 STUDENTS, MUSICIANS, AND GENERAL CONCERT GOING PUBLIC ATTENDED PERFORMANCE WHICH INCLUDED WORKS OF HANDEL, RAVEL AND CHOPIN.
2. BELGRADE CONCERT TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER 25 AND WAS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY POST AND JUGOKONCERT. TOCCO APPEARED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF SUBSCRIPTION SERIES ENTITLED INTERNATIONAL MASTERS CYCLE. HE PLAYED TO VIRTUALLY SOLD OUT HOUSE AT BELGRADE'S LEADING CONCERT HALL AND RESPONDED TO ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE BY PERFORMING TWO ENCORES, BOTH BY AMERICAN COMPOSERS. THE PROGRAM IN BELGRADE WAS THE SAME AS SARAJEVO. THE TWO CONCERTS WERE VERY WELL PLAYED AND DEMONSTRATED THAT TOCCO IS AN ACCOMPLISHED, OCCASIONALLY EXCITING MUSICIAN.

3. BOTH CONCERTS WERE ARRANGED BY LOCAL SPONSORS
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IN COOPERATION WITH THE POST. USIS BELGRADE'S MODEST

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION WAS THE KEY TO THIS VERY SUCCESSFUL
GUEST APPEARANCE WHICH EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTED CPM OBJECTIVE III.
INFORMATION ABOUT TOCCO'S AVAILABILITY WAS OBTAINED FROM
DEPARTMENT'S LIST OF ARTISTS TOURING PRIVATELY. AS EVIDENCE
OF EFFECTIVENESS, POST HAPPY TO REPORT THAT LOCAL
SPONSOR ALREADY NEGOTIATING WITH TOCCO FOR RETURN APPEARANCE,
POSSIBLY EARLY NEXT SEASON.
SILBERMAN

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